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**From:** Brumm, Peter [Brumm.Peter@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 4/8/2019 2:33:01 PM  
**To:** Greene, Nikia [Greene.Nikia@epa.gov]; Archer, Allie [Archer.Allie@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: New Clean Water Act EPA Grant Program

Hi Nikia/Allie,

We're getting pressure to move fast on this year's grant and I'd like to hear your thoughts. Right now I'm trying to survey existing needs (see bulleted questions below). I'm in M-Th this week if you want to stop by and chat or feel free to shoot me a quick email response.

- What 2-3 toxic-related contaminants would you identify as high priorities to address?
  - Previous basin-wide studies have focused on 4 primary toxics (Hg, PCB, DDT/DDE, and PBDE-flame retardant)
- What are the most significant needs to achieve toxics reduction in the Columbia River Basin, based on your knowledge in the headwaters?
- What 2-3 priorities would you identify for potential future toxics monitoring and reduction grant funding?
  - This year?
  - Beyond?

Thanks!

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**From:** Brumm, Peter  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2019 5:07 PM  
**To:** Greene, Nikia <Greene.Nikia@epa.gov>; Vranka, Joe <vranka.joe@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Archer, Allie <Archer.Allie@epa.gov>; McAdams, Tillman <McAdams.Tillman@epa.gov>; Elsen, Henry <Elsen.Henry@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: New Clean Water Act EPA Grant Program

Yes, let's talk. I'm in Denver next week. Therefore, I propose setting up a meeting the week of April 8<sup>th</sup> for me, Nikia, and Allie. Sound OK? Anyone else care to join?

Allie asked about who the recipients can be once this grant program is standing. These competitive grants can be awarded to "state governments, tribal governments, regional water pollution control agencies and entities, local government entities, nongovernmental entities, or soil and water conservation districts." So pretty wide open although there is a cost share aspect where federal funds can't exceed 75% of total project costs unless given a special exemption.

Continue to ask questions if you have any. Hope we can find something good to coordinate on,

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**From:** Greene, Nikia  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 4:32 PM  
**To:** Brumm, Peter <[Brumm.Peter@epa.gov](mailto:Brumm.Peter@epa.gov)>; Vranka, Joe <[vranka.joe@epa.gov](mailto:vranka.joe@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Archer, Allie <[Archer.Allie@epa.gov](mailto:Archer.Allie@epa.gov)>; McAdams, Tillman <[Mcadams.Tillman@epa.gov](mailto:Mcadams.Tillman@epa.gov)>; Elsen, Henry <[Elsen.Henry@epa.gov](mailto:Elsen.Henry@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: New Clean Water Act EPA Grant Program

That's great Peter! On the same note as Allies PCBs and dioxins down yonder, she might have told you about them showing upstream of MPTP, which I think everyone has assumed it is coming from NWE. We should all three talk more.

Not sure who to start with at NRD.

Thanks,

Nikia Greene  
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**From:** Brumm, Peter  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 4:09 PM  
**To:** Vranka, Joe <[vranka.joe@epa.gov](mailto:vranka.joe@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Archer, Allie <[Archer.Allie@epa.gov](mailto:Archer.Allie@epa.gov)>; McAdams, Tillman <[Mcadams.Tillman@epa.gov](mailto:Mcadams.Tillman@epa.gov)>; Greene, Nikia <[Greene.Nikia@epa.gov](mailto:Greene.Nikia@epa.gov)>; Elsen, Henry <[Elsen.Henry@epa.gov](mailto:Elsen.Henry@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: New Clean Water Act EPA Grant Program

Hi Joe,

Please see my message to MT DEQ Clean Water Act managers below. We're starting up a new grant program to fund toxic monitoring and restoration in the Columbia River Basin. We're talking about a modest grant program this year - \$500k for the whole basin – with the potential to grow to \$5 million in subsequent years if fully appropriated by Congress.

I'm interested to hear if you, or your team working on sites in western MT, had any project ideas. Perhaps there are some needs you've identified but can't fund with superfund monies? I've already discussed with Allie the idea of monitoring the Clark Fork River for PCBs and dioxins to get a handle of sources besides Smurfit. Something like that seems like a good fit, but of course funding will be competitive with other needs in the whole basin.

Also, I'd like to coordinate with MT's Natural Resource Damage Program. Can you suggest anyone there I should start with?

Thanks and let me know if you want to set up a meeting to discuss further,

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**From:** Brumm, Peter  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 3:50 PM  
**To:** Darrin Kron <[dkron@mt.gov](mailto:dkron@mt.gov)>; Dean Yashan <[DYashan@mt.gov](mailto:DYashan@mt.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ray, Robert <[rrey@mt.gov](mailto:rrey@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** New EPA Grant Program

Hi Darrin and Dean,

As the monitoring/assessment and nonpoint source restoration leads for Montana I wanted to reach out to you about a new grant program EPA is setting up in the Columbia River Basin.

On December 16, 2016, the President signed the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act as part of the Water Resources Development Act, now known as the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016. The new Section 123 of the Clean Water Act (see attached) directs EPA to establish a voluntary, competitive grant program for projects in the Columbia River Basin for "environmental protection and restoration programs throughout the Basin." While Congress authorized the program in 2016, this year was the first time Congress appropriated funding.

The Act calls for the establishment of a working group of state, Tribal and other stakeholders to focus on water quality monitoring and restoration in the basin, with an emphasis on addressing toxics. This year's funding covers a modest grant program, which will hopefully grow in size in future years, to fund monitoring and mitigation efforts.

We benefit from previous collaborative work completed by an existing Columbia River Toxics Reduction Workgroup (see the [2009 State of the River for Toxics](#) and [2010 Toxics Reduction Action Plan](#)). These reports have focused on four widespread toxins in Idaho, Washington and Oregon: PCBs, Hg, DDT and PBDE (flame retardants). Continuing these ongoing efforts, EPA Region 10 is taking the lead implementing the Act's new requirements, but Region 8 (myself and Ayn Schmit) is working to ensure the interests of the headwaters are reflected going forward. The existing Columbia River Toxics Reduction Workgroup is meeting in the Dalles, OR on May 7<sup>th</sup> (see attached agenda). Members of this new workgroup will likely be a subset from this larger workgroup. Although I'm on the draft agenda, I can't attend.

An invitation letter for participation in this new workgroup will be sent to the Governor and/or Director McGrath in the next month or so, but I wanted you to be aware and get your initial thoughts on a few things. Eric Urban has also been briefed.

I'll follow-up with a call in a few days,

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